



SWANAGE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR
1940.

PUBLIC HEALTH OFFICERS.

Medical Officer of Health

E.J. O'KEEFFE, B.A., M.R.C.S.,
L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Sanitary Inspector

E. SEYMOUR, M.R.S.I.
Certified Meat and Food Inspector.

Health Visitor
(Dorset County Council
appointment.)

MISS O'BRYEN HODGE.

The Medical Officer of Health also holds the appointments of Medical Officer of Health to Wareham Borough Council, Wareham and Purbeck Rural District Council, and Assistant Medical Officer to Dorset County Council.

Public Health Office,
12a. Institute Road,
Swanage.

Mr. Chairman and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report on the health and Sanitary Conditions of the Swanage Urban District for the year 1940.

The Report, as directed by the Ministry of Health, is much curtailed, and limited to statistics and changes which have taken place during the past twelve months.

The health of the district has remained satisfactory during the year, there being no serious outbreaks of infectious disease. With the exception of Whooping Cough and Erysipelas the notification rates in all cases have been lower than the corresponding figures for England and Wales.

During the period a new Public Sewer was constructed in Priests Road, with consequent abolition of one Cesspool and six Pail Closets in this area.

Owing to war conditions, action under the Housing Act, 1936, was limited to repair work essential to make houses fit for human habitation.

I should like to express my thanks to yourselves for your consideration and support, and also to the Sanitary Inspector for his co-operation and the efficient manner in which he has carried out his many duties during the year.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

E. J. O'KEEFFE.

Medical Officer of Health.

STATISTICS AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area. - 2760 acres, with a further 31 acres of foreshore.

Population. Registrar-General's estimate of
 (a) Resident Population, Mid. 1940)
 (b) Average Population appropriate to) 6,980
 the calculation of death rates)

Number of inhabited houses (end of 1940) according to the rate
 book 1,954
 Rateable value £73.703
 Sum represented by a penny rate £266-11-10

EXTRACTS FROM VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

		<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>	
Live Births	) Legitimate	67	35	32	) Birth rate per 1,000
	) Illegitimate	2	1	1	) estimated resident
					) population 9.88
Still Births	) Legitimate	1	1	-	) Rate per 1,000 (live
	) Illegitimate	-	-	-	) and still)
					) births 14.28
Deaths		80	35	45	) Death rate per 1,000
					) estimated average
					) population 11.46

Area Comparability Factor - 0.85. Corrected Death Rate - 9.74.

Live Births. (For the purpose of calculation of infant and maternal mortality):-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	74	38	36
Illegitimate	2	1	1

Deaths from puerperal causes (Headings 29 and 30 of the Registrar-General's short list) :-

	<u>Deaths.</u>	<u>Rate per 1,000 total</u> <u>(live and still) births.</u>
No. 29. Puer: & post-abortion:		
sepsis	1	12.98
No. 30. Other Puerperal causes	Nil	Nil
Total	1	12.98

Deaths of infants under one year of age :-

	<u>Total.</u>	<u>M.</u>	<u>F.</u>
Legitimate	1	-	1
Illegitimate	1	1	-

Death rate of infants under one year of age :-

All infants per 1,000 live births 40.00
 Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 27.39
 Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births. 500.00

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 9
 Deaths from Measles (all ages) Nil
 Deaths from Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil
 Deaths from Diarrhoea (all ages) Nil

Birth, Death, Infant and Maternal Mortality Rates
during the Year 1940.

	Births per 1,000 Population		Deaths All Causes per 1,000 Population	Deaths under 1 year of age per 1,000 Live Births	Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis under 2 years of age per 1,000 Live Births	Maternal Mortality rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births.		
	Live Births	Still Births				Puerperal Sepsis	Others	Total
England and Wales.	14.6	0.55	14.5	55.0	4.6	0.52	1.64	2.16
148 Smaller Towns, estimated resident population 25,000 - 50,000 at 1931 Census.	15.7	0.55	12.8	54.0	4.4	Not available		
SWANAGE	9.88	0.14	9.74	40.0	Nil	13.15	Nil	13.15

There were no specially noteworthy causes of sickness or invalidity during the year, nor any conditions of occupation or environment which would appear to have a prejudicial effect on health.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

There was no change during the year on the services provided in the area.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water Supply.

There has been no change in the source of water supply in the area. All water supplied is treated by chlorination.

Samples of untreated and treated water are taken at regular intervals for bacteriological examination.

No. of Water Samples Examined.

	<u>Corfe Castle Source.</u>	<u>Ullwell Source.</u>
Untreated Water	51	52
Treated Water	51	49

Five samples of water were taken from supply taps in the Swanage Area, all these samples gave satisfactory results.

Total number of samples examined - 208.

The results of examination of untreated water from both sources show the need for continuous treatment. The pollution of the Corfe Castle Source of supply is very heavy at times especially after periods of rain, when the B. Coli (faecal type) content may rise to over 180 per m.l.

The samples of water taken after chlorination gave uniformly good results, B Coli being absent in all cases.

During the year the Council had still under consideration the works required to be carried out at their Waterworks as a result of the recommendations in the Consultant's (Dr. E.V. Suckling) report of September 1938, in order to ensure an adequate supply of pure water under all circumstances.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.

Total number of inspections.....	2,267
Number of informal notices	126
" " " " complied with	125
" " " " outstanding	1
Number of statutory notices	5
" " " " complied with	5

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year a new Public Sewer 1290 ft. in length was laid in Priests Road. Seven houses were connected to this Sewer; six pail closets and one cesspool were abolished.

Drain Testing, etc.

Existing Buildings - drains inspected	90
New Buildings " "	25
New Sewer connections examined	18
" " inspected etc.	15
Drains Smoke Tested	36
" Water Tested	38
Colour Test applied	10
Choked Drains cleared	35
Drains reconstructed	9
" repaired	4
Cesspool abolished and House connected to New	
Public Sewer	1
Pail Closets abolished and Houses connected to New	
Public Sewer	6

Inspection of Dwelling-Houses during the Year.

- | | | |
|----|---|-----|
| 1. | (a) Total No. of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts) | 356 |
| | (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose | 783 |
| 2. | (a) No. of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations 1925 and 1932 | 139 |
| | (b) No. of inspections made for the purpose | 300 |
| 3. | No. of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation | 8 |
| 4. | No. of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceeding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation | 12 |

Remedy of Defects during the year without Service
of Formal Notices.

No. of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	80
--	----

Action under Statutory Powers during the Year.

- | | | |
|-----|--|----|
| (a) | Proceedings under Section 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936. | |
| 1. | No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs | 94 |
| 2. | No. of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices:- | |
| | a. By Owners | 14 |
| | b. By Local Authority in default of Owners | - |

(b) Proceedings under Public Health Act.

- | | |
|--|-----|
| 1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied | 108 |
| 2. No. of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:- | |
| a. By Owners | 5 |
| b. By Local Authority in default of Owners | |

(c) Proceedings under Sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936.

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1. No. of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made..... | 1 |
| 2. No. of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders | 2 |

(1) Proceedings under Section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936.

No. of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made

Housing Act, 1936 (Part IV.) Overcrowding.

- | | | |
|-----|--|---|
| (a) | 1. No. of dwellings overcrowded at end of year | 1 |
| | 2. No. of families dwelling therein | 2 |
| | 3. No. of persons dwelling therein | 3 |
| (b) | No. of new cases of overcrowding reported during the
year | 4 |
| (c) | 1. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year.. | 5 |
| | 2. No. of persons concerned in such cases | 6 |

New Houses.

Total No. of New Houses erected during 1940 by the Local Authority	171
No. of Houses owned by the Local Authority	1,000
Approximate No. of working class houses in District ...	

No building of houses was undertaken by the Council during the year. The number of houses owned by the Local Authority remains the same as in the previous year.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk Supply.

No. of Persons on Register at end of 1940	12
" " Dairy Farms and other dairy premises on Register at end of 1940	18
No. of Dairy Farms inspected during 1940	12
" " Inspections during 1940	81
" " Notices served	28
" " Notices complied with	27
" " Milkshops inspected during 1940	4
" " Inspections during 1940	52
" " Notices served	7
" " Notices complied with	7
" " Milk Samples taken (ungraded)	16
" " (pasteurised)	18

No. of samples of Ungraded Milk taken for Bacteriological Examination:-

- | | |
|------------------------------------|----|
| a. Considered satisfactory | 6 |
| b. Considered unsatisfactory | 10 |

Frequent visits were paid during the year by the Inspector to dairy farms and other dairy premises in the district.

The standard of cleanliness in milk production at some of the smaller dairy farms leaves much to be desired. The standard of cleanliness in the milkshops and bottling establishments in handling milk, in some cases very high, may on the whole be regarded as satisfactory.

Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936.

The following licences were in force under the Milk (Special Designation) Order, 1936, at the end of the year:-

No. of Pasteurising Establishments	1
" " Accredited Milk Producers	3
" " Tuberculin Tested Producers	1

Pasteurised Milk.

Regular visits were made during the year to pasteurising and bottling establishments in the district.

Total samples of pasteurised milk taken	18
Number of samples which passed the phosphatase test	18
Number of samples which failed to pass the phosphatase test	0
Number of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was not more than 100,000	12
Number of samples in which the bacteria per millilitre was more than 100,000	5
Plate Count was not carried out in one sample taken.	

Meat and Food Inspection.

No. of visits to Slaughterhouses	17
" " " " Meat Shops	151
" " " " Butcher's Shops	16
" " " " Fish Shops	16
" " " " Bakehouses	42

The total amount of meat condemned during the year was 148 lbs.

There are two slaughterhouses in Swarage, the slaughtering of animals was discontinued at these in January, and meat was sent into Swarage from a central slaughterhouse outside the district.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The following are particulars of cases notified during the year:-

Disease	Total Cases notified.	Cases admitted to hospital.	Age Groups	Total Deaths
Scarlet Fever.	2	1	5-10	-
	2	2	20-35	-
Puerperal Pyrexia.	1	1	?	-
	1	1	20-35	-
Pneumonia.	1	-	5-4	-
	1	-	10-15	-
	2	-	20-35	-
	1	-	45-55	-
	1	-	55-65	-
Measles.	2	-	?	-
	2	-	5-4	-
	1	-	4-5	-
	4	-	5-10	-
	8	-	10-15	-
	1	-	15-20	-
	4	-	20-35	-
	1	-	35-45	-
Whooping Cough.	2	-	0-4	-
	3	-	2-3	-
	1	-	4-5	-
	6	-	5-10	-
Erysipelas.	1	-	2-3	-
	1	-	5-10	-
	1	-	45-55	-
	1	-	55 & over	-

The incidence of infectious disease in the district was low during the year. The notification rates for Whooping Cough and Erysipelas were higher than the corresponding rates for England and Wales.

Notification Rates per 100,000 Civilian Population.

Infectious Disease	England & Wales	148 Smaller Towns	Swanage
Diphtheria	0.07	0.10	0.00
Cerebro Spinal Fever.	0.32	0.20	0.00
Scarlet Fever.	1.63	1.57	0.57
Whooping Cough.	1.34	1.55	1.77
Diphtheria.	1.16	1.23	0.00
Erysipelas.	0.33	0.50	0.57
Smallpox.	0.00	0.00	0.00
Measles.	10.24	9.09	3.29
Pneumonia.	1.20	1.00	0.71

Diphtheria Immunisation.

This is the second year of diphtheria immunisation. During the year a change of immunising agent was made from T.A.F. to Alum-Precipitated Toxoid (A.P.T.). Children under 10 years were given two doses, 0.25 c.c. and 0.5 c.c., with a four week interval between doses. Children over 10 years were given three doses, 0.1 c.c., 0.15 c.c. and 0.2 c.c., with intervals of four weeks between doses.

As a result of the Ministry of Health Circular No. 2230 of 7th December, dealing with Diphtheria Prophylaxis, the Council decided to display posters and distribute leaflets to persuade parents of the importance of having children immunised. The result of this publicity will no doubt be reflected in the number of children immunised in the year 1941.

Alum-precipitated toxoid is now to be supplied free of charge to the Council from the County Public Health Laboratory.

The following are particulars of the number of children immunised during 1940:-

Number of children who at 31st December, 1940 had received a full course of immunisation ...

Course completed between 1st Jan., 1940 and 31st Dec., 1940	
Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
56	265

Number of children who had been inoculated but had not completed full course of immunisation at 31st December, 1940 ...

Inoculation begun between 1st Jan., 1940 and 31st Dec., 1940	
Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
14	57

Percentage of child population immunised.

Estimated population of children ...
Estimated percentage of child population who at date shown:-

- (a) Had received complete course of immunisation ...
(b) Had been inoculated but had not completed course ...

At 31st December, 1940	
Age under 5 years	Age 5 years and over but under 15
410	1400
23.17%	43.03%
7.80%	4.07%

No cases of diphtheria were notified during the year.

Tuberculosis

No action was necessary during the year under Sect. 52 Public Health Act 1936, or under The Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations 1925.

Particulars of new cases of Tuberculosis and of all deaths during 1940 :-

Age Periods		New Cases				Deaths			
		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
		M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
1	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
5	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
10	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
20	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	-	-
25	...	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
35	...	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-
45	...	2	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
55	...	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
65 and upwards	...	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-
TOTALS	...	3	3	-	-	4	1	-	-

One case (male aged 42 years) who died from pulmonary tuberculosis had not previously been notified as suffering from the disease.

Cases of Tuberculosis remaining on the Register of Notifications on 31st December, 1940 :-

Pulmonary			Non-Pulmonary			Total Cases
Males	Females	Total	Males	Females	Total	
12	6	18	6	5	11	29

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

1. Inspections for purposes of provisions as to health.
(including inspections made by Sanitary Inspector).

Premises. (1)	Number of		
	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Occupiers prosecuted. (4)
Factories with mechanical power ...	8	5	-
Factories without mechanical power ..	8	3	-
Other Premises under the Act (including works of building and engineering construction but not including out-workers' premises ..	-	-	-
Total ...	16	8	-

2. Defects Found.

Particulars. (1)	No. of Defects.			Number of defects in respect of which Prosecutions were Instituted. (5)
	Found. (2)	Remedied. (3)	Referred to H.M. Inspector. (4)	
Want of cleanliness (S. 1) ...	5	5	-	-
Overcrowding (S. 2) ...	-	-	-	-
Unreasonable temperature (S. 3) ...	-	-	-	-
Inadequate ventilation (S. 4) ...	-	-	-	-
Ineffective drainage of floors (S. 6) ...	1	1	-	-
Sanitary Conveniences (S. 7) :-				
Insufficient ...	-	-	-	-
Unsuitable or defective ...	1	1	-	-
Not separate for sexes ...	1	1	-	-
Other Offences (Not including offences relating to Home Work or offences under the Sections mentioned in the Schedule to the Ministry of Health (Factories and Workshops Transfer of Powers) Order, 1921, and re- enacted in the Third Schedule to the Factories Act, 1937).	-	-	-	-
Total ...	8	8	-	-